



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEKS FIRMS TO PROVIDE
MICROSOFT IT ACADEMY TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES**

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced today that the Idaho State Department of Education, in an effort to support and improve the job skills of Idaho students and residents, has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for firms to provide Microsoft IT Academy products and services for up to 253 public schools and 145 public libraries in Idaho.

The announcement of the RFP, which can be found at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/digitalLearning/, is in response to [S1189](#) which appropriated one-time moneys to provide technology education opportunities and/or information technology certifications to students, and faculty that prepare students for college, career or workplace.

Microsoft IT Academy programs provided under the department's contract will offer a wide variety of information technology education classes and certifications to Idaho public libraries and free to public school students in grades 9-12, in order to help prepare them for college or the workplace.

The Microsoft IT Academy provides training and certifications at the specialist, expert and master levels in the use of Office 2010 and Office 2013. In addition, the Academy offers a Microsoft Technology Associate certification in computer science and Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSD) certifications for Windows Store apps using C# and Web applications.

For more information about the RFP, or Microsoft IT Academy, please contact Rick Kennedy at (208) 332-6852 or by email at rkennedy@sde.idaho.gov.

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